

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 06517 290943Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06  
L-03 DHA-02 /027 W  
-----292217Z 047003 /62  
R 290714Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9129

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6517

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CASC (WIDEMAN, BERNARD)  
SUBJECT: WIDEMAN CASE

REF: STATE 095536

1. WITHDRAWAL OF CREDENTIALS HAS NOT PREVENTED WIDEMAN FROM FILING COPY. AS PRACTICAL MATTER, HOWEVER, IT PREVENTS HIS ATTENDANCE AT PRESIDENTIAL PRESS CONFERENCES AND GOVERNMENT BRIEFINGS.

ABSENCE OF CREDENTIALS ALSO MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO ATTEND POLITICAL TRIALS, SUCH AS AQUINO, LOPEZ AND OSMENA. MOREOVER, IT COMPLICATES IN-COUNTRY TRAVEL, SINCE PRESS CREDENTIALS SERVE AS ID. HIS PASSPORT DOES NOT HAVE VALID PHILIPPINE VISA.

2. WIDEMAN HAS NOT REPEAT NOT SOUGHT EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN SEEKING HAVE CREDENTIAL RESTORED. WHEN WE HAVE DISCUSSED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE, HIS POSITION HAS BEEN THAT A) HE WANTS TO PURSUE THIS MATTER AFTER HIS HEARING IS COMPLETED, AND B) HE WOULD PREFERE WASHINGTON POST TO TAKE LEAD IN PRESSING FOR RENEWAL CREDENTIALS.

3. WIDEMAN ANTICIPATED PUBLIC PORTION OF HIS HEARING MIGHT CONCLUDE TODAY (APRIL 29) BUT HEARING POSTPONED. HE SUSPECTS BENEDICTO PORTION MAY BE DROPPED BECAUSE OF  
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BENEDICTO'S RELUCTANCE APPEAR IN COURT.  
AFTER DECISION ON WHETHER HE WILL STAY OR NOT STAY TAKEN, WIDEMAN WILL ADDRESS CREDENTIALS QUESTION.

4. OUR VIEW IS THAT EMBASSY ASSISTANCE WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WASHINGTON POST EFFORTS PROVE UNAVAILING. IN VIEW OF OUR EARLIER APPROACHES, AS WELL AS FOLFF AND HOLBROOKE

MENTION OF CASE WITH GOP, GOP IS PERSUADED OF OUR  
STRONG INTEREST AND REPRESENTATIONS ON WIDEMAN'S BEHALF  
WOULD BE PROPER AND HOPEFULLY PRODUCTIVE.

5. EMBASSY IS IN ALMOST DAILY CONTACT WITH WIDEMAN AND  
WILL MOVE WHENEVER HE THINKS IT WILL BE HELPFUL.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009